

IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Call for a Vote on the Balanced Budget Amendment**

*Washington, DC* - Today, Congresswoman Heather Wilson (R-NM), Congressman Brian Bilbray (R-CA), Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) and other members of Congress called for a vote on H.J. Res. 53, the Balanced Budget Amendment of 1999.

The Balanced Budget Amendment of 1999 is the Constitutional amendment mandating a balanced federal budget every year without using the Social Security surplus.

**“Achieving a balanced budget for the first time in over thirty years last year is praiseworthy,”** said Istook. **“But we must guarantee that it is a permanent success, not just for our generation, but for future generations.”**

The House of Representatives has not voted on a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution since 1995 when the measure passed by 300-132, but failed twice in the Senate by a single vote. **“No ordinary law can restrain Congress, because Congress has the power to remove that safeguard whenever it wishes,”** said Istook. **“For years, the government has been raiding the Social Security Trust Fund. It’s wrong, and it’s time to stop it.”**

The bill currently has 52 cosponsors.